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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/099,936	03/13/2002	Andrew McIntosh Soutar	23905-029	3281

7590 04/08/2005

A. Jason Mirabito
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris,
Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
One Financial Center
Boston, MA 02111

EXAMINER

TALBOT, BRIAN K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1762

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/099,936

Applicant(s)

SOUTAR ET AL.

Examiner

Brian K. Talbot

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 18-26 and 32-40 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 27-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. The responses filed 9/24/04 and 12/21/04 have been considered and entered.

Claims 18-40 remain in the application.

2. The request for Interference is acknowledged, however, the request will not be processed until all claims in the application are allowable and there are no outstanding rejections. Hence, the request is held in abeyance until that point.

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 27,30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Popeck (3,294,578) or Ferrier et al. (5,468,515).

Popeck (3,294,578) teaches deposition of metal on a metal surface.

Silver is deposited on a copper surface with a composition including silver ions, hydrobromic or hydroiodic acid and a nitrogen containing compound which can be an amide or amine (col. 1, line 10 - col. 2, line 60).

Ferrier et al. (5,468,515) teaches a composition and a method for selective plating. The invention comprises a composition that includes a precious metal to be deposited (silver, gold, etc.), and acid such as hydrochloric acid and an imidazole component. (abstract and example 1).

Claims 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Popeck (3,294,578) or Ferrier et al. (5,468,515) in combination with JP 04-1 10,474.

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Details above describing Popeck (3,294,578) or Ferrier et al. (5,468,515) are incorporated here.

Popeck (3,294,578) or Ferrier et al. (5,468,515) fail to teach treating the metal surface with the "additive" instead of having the "additive" in the solution, i.e. a second treating step.

JP 04-1 10,474 teaches preventing staining of a silver metal surface comprising plating silver on a metal surface and then contacting the silver surface with a organic compound, i.e. a mercaptan, to prevent discoloration of the metal from moisture.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified either Popeck (3,294,578) or Ferrier et al. (5,468,515) by utilizing a two-step process v. a one step process, as evidenced by JP 04- 1 10,474 with the expectation of achieving similar results, i.e. protecting the silver coating.

Response to Amendment

5. Applicant's arguments filed 9/24/04 and 12/21/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued that the prior art fails to teach an "additive" that substantially prevents silver migration by providing a barrier to moisture.

The Examiner agrees in part. While the reference fails to specifically teach the claimed advantage, the claimed invention cites amines and amides (specification pg. 21-

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22) which is also what the Popeck reference teaches. Hence, it is the Examiner's position that the silver plating solution would inherently possess the claimed advantage associated with its inclusion in the solution.

With respect to the Ferrier reference, the prior art discloses additives such as imidazoles to the silver plating solutions. Looking at pgs. 21-22 of the specification, one of the "additives" disclosed includes imidazoles. Hence, it is the Examiner's position that the silver plating solution would inherently possess the claimed advantage associated with its inclusion in the solution.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian K. Talbot whose telephone number is (571) 272-1428. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6AM-3PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy H. Meeks can be reached on (571) 272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

B. K. Talbot 4/4/05

Brian K Talbot
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1762

BKT